

**U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
United States  
Coast Guard**



# Press Release

Date: Jan. 24, 2003

## **COAST GUARD MONITORS VESSELS TRANSITING ICE-CLOGGED WATERS**

**WOODSHOLE, MASS.** – Coast Guard personnel from Group Woods Hole, Mass. carefully monitored a 230-foot ferry and a 100-foot tugboat that were trapped in ice for over five hours today as they transited from Nantucket to Hyannis, Mass.

The Motor Vessel Nantucket, a 230-foot ferry with 44 people on board, and Marcel Roy, a 100-foot tugboat, both became trapped in ice in a narrow channel as they left Brant Point, Nantucket at 5:35 p.m. today. The vessels were able to break free of the ice and both arrived safely to Hyannis. No injuries have been reported.

The Nantucket Steamship Authority contracted Marcel Roy to escort the ferry because the past week of below freezing temperatures has resulted in significant ice formation in the area.

After many attempts to break free of the ice, the ferry radioed Coast Guard Group Woods Hole, Mass. at 8:15 p.m. As a precaution, the Coast Guard Cutter Willow, a 225-foot sea going buoy tender, was diverted from aids to navigation work in Buzzards Bay but has now been released from the case. Coast Guard personnel from Group Woods Hole maintained contact with both vessels to make sure they arrived safely to Hyannis.

Coast Guard cutters from Maine to New York are currently breaking ice in shipping lanes, along local rivers and waterways. Ninety percent of petroleum products enter the Northeast by waterborne transportation. These include home heating and other fuels.

The Coast Guard is charged with keeping navigable waterways open to the practical extent possible. Search and Rescue, reducing flooding, and facilitating commerce are the ice breaking priorities of the Coast Guard.

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